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Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all previous versions and listings of claims in this application:

1.(Currently Amended) Method A method for retrieving a file system of a recording medium, the file system indicating the physical position of the content on the recording medium, including the steps of:

- determining a signature of the recording medium by measuring features based on a data pattern stored on the recording medium, the signature including a plurality of elements;

- comparing the signature with a plurality of signatures stored in a content database; and

- retrieving the associated file system indicating the physical position of the content on the recording medium from the content database if the signature is equal to a signature stored in the content database.

2.(previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the step of comparing the signature with a plurality of signatures stored in a content database includes evaluating the distances between the determined signature and the signatures stored in the content database.

3.(previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the steps of determining the signature of the recording medium and comparing the signature with a plurality of signatures include:

- determining a first part of the signature including a plurality of elements;

- comparing the first part of the signature with corresponding parts of the plurality of signatures stored in the content database;

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- determining a further part of the signature if the first part of the signature is equal to the corresponding part of at least one signature stored in the content database;
and

- comparing the further part of the signature with corresponding parts of the plurality of signatures stored in the content database.

4.(previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein, in the comparing steps, a negative progressive search approach is employed, in which the elements of the determined signature are compared with the corresponding elements of the signatures stored in the content database one at a time, wherein every element of the signature may yield a negative search result.

5.(previously presented) Method according to claim 1, further including the steps of:

- obtaining the file system from the recording medium if the determined signature is not equal to a signature stored in the content database; and

- storing the obtained file system and the determined signature in the content database.

6.(previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the signature is unique for every recording medium.

7.(previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the signature elements are selected from the disk status such as open or closed disk, number of sessions or number of tracks in each session, from timing information such as the lead-in time of each session, the lead-out time of each session, the total time of each session or subcode information of each track, or from data integrity such as data checksums of specific tracks.

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8.(Currently Amended) Apparatus for reading from and/or writing to recording media, wherein the apparatus includes at least one element adapted for retrieving a file system of the recording medium, the file system indicating the physical position of the content on the recording medium, by performing:

determining a signature of the recording medium by measuring features based on a data pattern stored on the recording medium, the signature including a plurality of elements;

comparing the signature with a plurality of signatures stored in a content database; and

retrieving the associated file system indicating the physical position of the content on the recording medium from the content database if the signature is equal to a signature stored in the content database.

9.(previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the apparatus is adapted to perform the retrieval of the file system of the recording medium after an occurrence of a condition selected from the group consisting of insertion of the recording medium, transferral of the recording medium into a playback position, and wake up from a power down mode.